

## **Cornell Round Robin Report, June 2006**

to

ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group

Submitted by Karen Calhoun

**CURRENT ISSUE OF BACKSTORY** (<http://www.library.cornell.edu/cts/backstory/>).

Our technical services newsletter, edited by David Banush, continues to be a hit. The table of contents for the current issue is:

**The Speed Channel:** LTS Undertakes Turnaround Time Study

**You Holding?** OCLC Reclamation Project Resets CUL Holdings in WorldCat

**ITSO Big:** OCLC, CUL Announce Partnership to Offer Integrated Tool for Selection and Ordering as WorldCat Selection

Added Entries:

**Limited Ink:** LTS instrumental in electronic-only subscription shift

**Swinging the Cat:** Karen Calhoun's report on the future of library catalogs

**NIC's NAC, Double Whack:** Retrospective conversion, Native American Collection cataloging to be completed by 2007

**Professionally Speaking** (what our staff have been up to in 2006 so far)

**Staff Profile:** Roswitha Clark, LTS Cataloging

**STAFFING.** The incomparable Ross Atkinson, Cornell's AUL for Collections, passed away March 8, 2006 after a long illness. He is sorely missed.

Tom Hickerson, AUL for Digital Library and Information Technologies and Special Collections, is departing this summer for Calgary, where he will oversee the University Library, the Nickle Arts Museum, University of Calgary Press, the Image Centre, and the University Archives. This is a wonderful position that is a perfect fit for Tom.

The Library will be conducting a search for an AUL for Scholarly Communications and Collections. Your nominations are most welcome and should be sent to the head of the search committee, Sarah Thomas, University Librarian, [set9@cornell.edu](mailto:set9@cornell.edu).

**NEW LINK RESOLVER.** We recently implemented III's WebBridge product to replace our LinkFinderPlus link resolver software. Through comparative testing we have been able to roughly estimate a 45% percent improvement in users' success rate getting to full text, with many more links to full text now being offered to users. We have also gained more insight into the factors behind unsuccessful links; the cause is almost always in one way or the other incomplete or incorrect metadata from the origin (that is, from metasearch engines or citation services). Another problem we have uncovered is a lag between when some journal publishers make content available online and when they register the DOIs for the articles with CrossRef. Our link resolver specialists feel it is important for all of us to talk to the content providers about the relationship between

OpenURL metadata and our service quality.

**GOOGLE SCHOLAR EVALUATED; WEBFEAT RECOMMENDED.** A special task force investigated federated searching solutions for Cornell, including the possibility of taking down the current metasearch service and directing users to Google Scholar instead. The task force's conclusion regarding Google Scholar may be of interest:

... We decided to do our own evaluation of how well Google Scholar performs for undergraduate assignments that only require a handful of reasonably good sources. Our standards were not high, but we did want to see reasonable performance across most subjects and disciplines that the Cornell undergraduate would study. We solicited the help of subject librarians who have a good understanding of the assignments that undergraduates have to complete. Although we did not hear back about every subject, we feel we heard about enough of them to consider our quick survey valid and to conclude that the coverage is uneven, and leaves entire subject areas with no or substandard coverage ... Our finding is that at this point Google Scholar does not function as an all-around entry-level discovery system, rather, it is just like another interdisciplinary resource that has its strengths and weaknesses and needs to be used and recommended as such.

The task force recommended the library switch to WebFeat, and a trial is underway. Pending the outcome of the trial, Cornell will decide whether to implement WebFeat as its new metasearch solution.

**CATALYST** (<http://www.library.cornell.edu/catalyst>). The library is developing Catalyst, which provides participating institutions with storage, a digital library infrastructure, and opportunities to collaborate in building new multi-institutional services. Catalyst, which is being implemented in a phased approach through 2006 with wider participation invited in 2007, will offer a premier content pool that is broader and richer than any one library could build. Service options envisioned besides storage are unmediated borrowing from a Catalyst union catalog, rapid physical delivery, PDF delivery of print and microform, print on demand, on-site retrieval and reading room use, plus digitization on demand and preservation on demand. For more information, please contact the project leader, Xin Li at [xl49@cornell.edu](mailto:xl49@cornell.edu).

**TECHNICAL SERVICES INTEGRATION.** As you might recall from previous updates, Cornell has been involved in a process to integrate technical services functions across the library system, as part of a broader university-wide workforce planning initiative. The effort began in August 2004 and is now complete. Project documentation is available (<http://www.library.cornell.edu/tsweb/aboutus/TSIWeb/TSintegration.htm>) but will soon be archived. For more information please contact Karen Calhoun at [ksc10@cornell.edu](mailto:ksc10@cornell.edu).